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Pinochet Cites CIA In Attack

Chilean Speculates On Assassination Attempt Last Year

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PARIS, May 7—Gen. Augusto Pinochet, the Chilean president, suggested in an interview published today that he believes the CIA may have played a role in last September's assassination attempt against him.

In an interview with the Paris daily *Le Monde*, Pinochet said he has what he described as "circumstantial evidence" of Central Intelligence Agency involvement.

The indications, Pinochet said in the question-and-answer session, were contained in several warnings he has received between 1973 and last year, including two from a CIA operative, that the agency was unhappy with him.

"Then came the assassination attempt," he was quoted as saying. "And I told myself, 'Well, well, the CIA?'"

Underground leftist commandos fighting to overthrow Pinochet have said they were responsible for the assassination attempt, from which Pinochet emerged slightly injured. Chileans of the far left and their sympathizers elsewhere generally have accused the CIA of aiding Pinochet's rise to power and of helping maintain him in the presidency. But Pinochet told *Le Monde* he asked "my friend" Ambassador Vernon Walters about the CIA suspicions, without specifying when or in what form the contact took place.

Walters, a retired general and former deputy director of the CIA, is U.S. representative to the United Nations. He frequently carries discreet messages from the Reagan administration.

Pinochet said Walters told him: "No, president, reject that. It is not possible. It is false. You have been deceived."

According to *Le Monde*, Pinochet's suspicion apparently was not completely allayed. The newspaper quoted him as adding, with an apparent allusion to the Soviet Union:

"And then somebody else, very well informed about these things, told me, 'Sometimes the two powers act together.'"

Pinochet has run Chile since the coup he led against president Salvador Allende in 1973. The United States, with Richard Nixon as president, had sought covertly to destabilize Allende, a Marxist. But U.S. officials have maintained that the United States played no direct role in the bloody military takeover or the crackdown on Chilean leftists that followed.

More recently, the Reagan administration has been signaling a desire to see a return to democratic institutions in Chile.

The prodding has produced complaints from Pinochet, who has not said publicly whether he plans to run for president in elections set for 1989 as part of what his government has described as a staged opening to democracy.

"Yes, I advocate a democratic opening," he told *Le Monde*. "But without the participation of certain gentlemen. In short, a protected democracy, a democracy that takes precautions. Otherwise, it risks being eaten up." Marxist parties are excluded by the decree regulating political activity.